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GOVERNOR UNVEILS NEW PROGRAMS FOR MATURE WORKERS
Hosts 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano unveiled two new programs for older Arizonans who are looking to continue in or return to the workplace, during an address today at the Governor's Conference on Aging.

"The face of aging is changing, and we have to make sure older Arizonans have the supports they need to live with dignity and independence," Governor Napolitano said. "Part of independence is having work and volunteer opportunities outside of the home. Arizona leads the nation in terms of the opportunities available to mature workers, and I'm excited about two new programs that will do even more for Arizona seniors."

The Governor announced the creation of the ***AZ Mature Worker Job Bank and Resource Web site***, online at www.azmatureworkers.com. Developed by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, this resource will provide a venue for the mature workers searching the job market and for the employers looking to hire them. Employers will also be able to post jobs on the site for free. The site was developed in partnership with Jobing.com, at no expense to Arizona taxpayers.

The Governor also unveiled a new program – ***Mature Worker-Friendly Employer Certification*** – which will provide special recognition to employers who commit to creating a workplace environment that values mature workers. The certification is also designed to assist employers in addressing projected labor force shortages.

These two programs add to the Governor's previous initiatives that have improved care and quality-of-life for Arizona's seniors. In 2007, the Governor's Office on Aging opened, quality ratings and surveys for every Arizona nursing home and assisted living facility were made available online at www.AZCareCheck.com, and the state's Adult Protective Services program began investigating 100% of allegations of abuse. The Governor has also introduced the CoppeRx Card to provide Arizonans with discounts on prescription drugs, and has worked to move Arizona toward electronic prescription systems that lower health care costs and reduce potentially dangerous mistakes.

The Governor's Conference on Aging is a biennial conference being held through Friday, May 16 at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa and the Mesa Convention Center. This year's theme is "Myth Busters: Breaking the Myths of Aging."

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.

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